

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (canceled).

Claim 2 (previously presented)

An oil base well working fluid comprising a major proportion and a minor proportion of ground elastomeric crumb rubber sealant material, wherein said sealant material:

- (a) has a particle size ranging from about 0.4 microns to about 2000 microns;
- and
- (b) is oil and water wettable.

Claim 3 (previously presented)

The oil base well working fluid of claim 2 wherein the amount of said ground elastomeric crumb rubber sealant material is from about 1 to about 80 pounds per 42 gallon oilfield barrel of said fluid.

Claim 4 (previously presented)

The oil base well working fluid of claim 2, further comprising a fluid loss additive.

Claim 5 (previously presented)

An oil base well working fluid comprising:

- (a) a major proportion of oil and a minor proportion of ground elastomeric crumb rubber sealant material, said material having a particle size ranging from about 0.4 microns to about 2000 microns; and
- (b) a fluid loss additive selected from the group consisting of asphaltic materials, organophilic humates, and organophilic lignosulfonates.

Claim 6 (cancelled)

Claim 7 (previously presented)

A water base well working fluid comprising a major portion of water and minor portion of ground elastomeric crumb rubber sealant material, wherein said ground elastomeric crumb rubber sealant material:

- (a) has a particle size ranging from about 0.4 microns to about 2000 microns; and
- (b) is oil and water wettable.

Claim 8 (previously presented)

The water base well working fluid from claim 7 wherein the amount of said ground elastomeric crumb rubber sealant material is from about 2 to about 50 pounds per 42 gallon oilfield barrel of said fluid.

Claim 9 (previously presented)

The water base well working fluid of claim 7 further comprising a fluid loss additive.

Claim 10 (previously presented)

A water base well working fluid comprising:

- (a) a major portion of water and minor portion of ground elastomeric crumb rubber sealant material, said ground elastomeric crumb rubber sealant material having a particle size ranging from about 0.4 microns to about 2000 microns; and
- (b) a fluid loss additive selected from the group consisting of lignite, starch, carboxymethyl cellulose, carboxymethyl starch, and polyacrylates.

Claim 11 (original)

A method of decreasing seepage and whole mud loss to subterranean formations during a drilling process having a drill string, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a drilling fluid composition comprising oil and water wettable ground elastomeric crumb rubber sealant material, said material having a particle size ranging from 0.4 microns to about 2000 microns; and
circulating said drilling fluid in said drill string during said drilling process.

Claim 12 (original)

The method of claim 11 wherein the amount of said ground elastomeric crumb rubber sealant material is from about 1 to about 80 pounds per 42 gallon oilfield barrel of said drilling fluid.

Claim 13 (original)

The method of claim 11 wherein said drilling fluid is an oil base well working fluid further comprising a fluid loss additive.

Claim 14 (previously presented)

The method of claim 11 wherein said drilling fluid is a water base well working fluid containing a fluid loss additive.

Claim 15 (cancelled)

Claim 16 (cancelled)

Claim 17 (cancelled)

Claim 18 (previously presented)

The oil base well working fluid of claim 2 wherein said material is at concentrations of about 2 pounds per 42 gallon oilfield barrel to about 20 pounds per barrel.

Claim 19 (previously presented)

The oil base well working fluid of claim 2 wherein said material has a particle size ranging from about 0.5 microns to about 425 microns.

Claim 20 (previously presented)

The oil base well working fluid of claim 2 wherein said sealant material has been treated with a surfactant.

Claim 21 (previously presented)

The water base well working fluid of claim 7 wherein said sealant material has been treated with a surfactant.